



Jon S. Corzine
Governor

State of New Jersey
Department of Community Affairs
Division of Codes and Standards
PO Box 802
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0802



Joseph V. Doria, Jr.
Commissioner

Date: **June 1999**

Code Ref. Update: **October 2007**

Subject: **Permissible Penetrations
in Roof Assemblies for
Residential Groups**

References: **N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.14,
Building Subcode, Section
705.6, Exception #4**

The language of Section 705.6, Exception 6 in the Building Subcode has led to confusion in the application of the third condition of that exception. Condition 4.1 of Section 705.6 prohibits openings within four feet of a firewall in residential groups.

This section was intended to prohibit skylights, ridge vents, or mechanical and passive exhaust termination points within four feet of a firewall; it was not intended to apply to chimneys and plumbing stacks. Therefore, for the purpose of applying this section, chimneys, plumbing stacks, and electrical service masts are not to be considered prohibited openings, and are permitted to be located within four feet of the firewall. All permissible penetrations shall be sealed at the roof line.

William M. Connolly
Director
Division of Codes and Standards

**PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 ET SEQ., AS
AMENDED, THE ABOVE FORMAL TECHNICAL OPINION IS CON-
SIDERED TO BE BINDING UPON ALL CODE OFFICIALS.**

FTO-12

FORMAL TECHNICAL OPINION